

AIDS is a global epidemic. It deserves a global response, not a unilateral one.

The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) just mentioned the global gag rule and the President is complicating AIDS treatments and prevention even further by attempting to apply the Mexico City policy to global AIDS programs. The Mexico City policy known as the Global Gag Rule prohibits U.S. funding of international organizations that perform abortions or provide abortion referrals or counseling with their own money.

In the past the Mexico City policy has been used to restrict the use of family planning funds. It has never even been applied to HIV funds and it is unwise for the President to politicize this. Under the administration's new proposed policy, only organizations that do not offer abortion-related services or those that offer abortion-related services, separate from HIV/AIDS services, would be eligible for AIDS funds.

This would be an inefficient and unrealistic expectation for most clinics, organizations operating in developing countries.

I will quickly say it is time for our President to really understand all of the work that all of us have put into this issue and get with the strategy and the plan that is developed by activists and people worldwide and do some real work in helping to deal with this pandemic.

HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) who has a record of his own that we all know and we are very proud of what he has done to preserve democracy in this country and his serving. The gentleman's humility in yielding is just a testament to his concern. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that we stand here at a crossroads right now. Millions of people all over the world are in the wake of a humanitarian disaster to pale all others. It makes the black plague of the Middle Ages look like small things. HIV and AIDS is a global killer. As ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Africa and as a human being who has seen with my own eyes the havoc HIV and AIDS is wreaking on an entire continent of Africa, I simply am compelled to speak out not only in Africa, but now in India, a nation that will have the largest population in the world in the next few years, even exceeding that of the People's Republic of China. It will have perhaps 1.5 billion people, surpassing China's 1.3 to 4 billion people.

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It is spreading there and India. It is spreading in China, and so it is something that is all around us; but I think that if we can deal with it in Africa, I think that what we learned there can actually be used in India where it has not yet taken hold as it has in Africa. And it has taken hold in Africa because the world has been silent on it, as we have seen, as devastation through the years, year in and year out, since 1988 when HIV and AIDS was first encountered in this country.

In January's State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new initiative to combat HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean. This initiative would give \$15 billion for fighting HIV and AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean, including \$10 billion, what President Bush called "new money."

This initiative, and the fact that 10 percent of Bush's speech at the State of the Union address was spent on discussing Africa, certainly marks a new day and a new pledge of a new commitment by the administration to pay more attention to the needs of the African continent. We do have concerns about this new money and where it will come from.

While child-survival funding for Africa increased in the President's 2004 budget request by about \$80 million to the \$542 million, this largely reflects the increase in the HIV and AIDS funding. Meanwhile, almost all other African aid was significantly decreased. For example, democracy conflict and humanitarian assistance will be cut by \$25 million in the 2004 budget if the President's request is agreed upon by Congress.

This is at a time when the U.S. is urging for sound policies and for governments to demonstrate they are fighting corruption and ruling justly in order to receive part of the \$1.3 billion from the Millennium Challenge Account next year. How can we hold governments accountable for making progress in these areas and simultaneously cutting the funding that has aided these activities toward reaching these goals? It does not add up.

We must fight HIV and AIDS, yes; but we must not rob from Peter to pay Paul. Child survival is important. Democracy and good governance are important, and in a day when the administration wages its war against terrorism, the administration is seeking to cut military and security aid by 23 percent in Africa, a \$130 million cut, as well as peacekeeping aid in Africa by nearly 50 percent. Is the \$75 million increase in HIV and AIDS a result of the cuts in other line items?

If we are serious about combating the most lethal killer we have known, we must integrate our efforts in other areas. We cannot stem the tide of HIV if we are cutting aid to agriculture, trade and investment or democracy programs. HIV affects all other sectors of society, not only health. Therefore, we have to combat the effects HIV has

had on all of the areas, and we should not move towards cutting aid in those areas to fight HIV and AIDS, because it is all together.

I once again commend the administration for its effort, and we look forward to working with the administration in this new dedicated war against HIV and AIDS.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight, and I want to especially thank my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and applaud my CBC colleagues for their hard work in bringing us together here tonight to talk about the HIV pandemic.

The global fight against HIV/AIDS is important to U.S. security interests because the disease has proven to be a significant destabilizing force in much of the developing world. It has removed many of the most productive members from society and devastated the social, political and economic infrastructures of those countries hardest hit.

Mr. Speaker, today, the chance of a 15-year-old African girl making it to the age of 60 is 52 percent. By 2010, it will be about a 30 percent chance. This will have a sizeable impact on the future of African society. With this kind of outlook for African youth, investment in education and economic advancement practically become non-issues.

In January, President Bush proposed spending \$15 billion over five years to fight global HIV/AIDS. The plan would commit \$3 billion a year for five years to global AIDS reduction, including \$200 million a year for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

I understand that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will take up the legislation very soon. The House International Relations Committee will consider a comparable bill.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this boost in spending is not a fait accompli. We must fight to ensure that Congress commits to the increase in Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria while preventing politics from intruding on decisions about health care.

The purpose of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is to attract, manage and disburse additional resources for health through a new public-private partnership. It is hoped that this will make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death and thereby mitigate the impact caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need, and contribute to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Speaker, We still have a long way to go to raise awareness about the disease and to ensure that Nations have the resources to implement proven prevention and treatment programs. We must do more to help those countries to combat these deadly diseases.

We must commit ourselves to doing more, and I hope that this Congress can make that commitment, and I strongly urge the President of the United States to do the same for the Global Fund.

AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCOTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr.